



**Thrive** is a 501(c)(3) working to revitalize Allen County, Kansas (pop. 13,319) through a focus on improving our county's quality of life. We do this by building partnerships, defining needs, identifying resources, coordinating services and providing leadership on important public issues.

**Our Vision:** Allen County will be a place where people want to live because it's **safe** and **healthy**.

**Our Mission:** To make accessible a safe environment with **health, wellness, recreation** and **education** services for every citizen in Allen County.

### **Strategies**

- **Building Countywide Unity**
  - Pulling seemingly disparate groups into projects where they CAN be successful if they collaborate.
  - Acknowledging the past—rivalries, county seat battles, grudges—and moving on.
  - Using data to remind communities countywide that we're all in the same boat.
  - Conducting “community visioning” sessions to help local residents create a coherent, achievable vision for the future of their town.
- **Collaborating With Other Service Providers**
  - Finding ways to help local agencies offer new/alternative options to support health, wellness, recreation and education.
  - Making available to service providers and the public up-to-date *local* data, including how to leverage new funding.
  - Worrying about getting the work done...NOT who gets the credit.
- **Taking the Heat**
  - Publicly advocating for action on local matters that don't typically have vocal constituencies—oral health, built environment, tobacco, recreation, etc.
  - Staking out unpopular positions on important but controversial public issues, and supporting others that do the same.
- **Targeting Critical Needs First**
  - Recruiting new medical and dental providers to our county.
  - Focusing on oral health, obesity and healthy lifestyle programming.
  - Stitching together transportation services to remove barriers to health care.

### **Activities**

Community Visioning services

Monthly “Community Conversations”

Annual awards for excellence in health, wellness, recreation and education

Volunteer dental transportation network

Quarterly health newsletters mailed countywide

The *Charley Melvin Mad Bomber Run for Your Life* 5K Run

Allen County “Meltdown”